

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJECT: MAKKAL KURAL ON NEW YORK TIMES AND BALTIMORE SUN REPORTERS
INTERVIEW WITH KARUNANIDHI

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA FROM MADRAS
AUG 04 REPEATED:

QUOTE

MADRAS 1373

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TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MAKKAL KURAL ON NEW YORK TIMES AND BALTIMORE
SUN REPORTERS INTERVIEW WITH KARUNANIDHI

FOLLOWING INITIS ENTIRETY IS ARTICLE CARRIED IN FRONT
PAGE BANNER, 3 COLUMN HEADS, IN AUGUST 3 EDITION OF
PRO-CPI, ANTI-DMK TAMIL AFTERNOON DAILY MAKKAL KURAL
(CIRCULATION 40,000):

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IF ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST ME, I WILL GIVE UP FOOD,

STARVE AND WAGE A LAST AND FINAL STRUGGLE,' FORMER CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI TOLD TWO AMERICAN NEWSMEN, IN INTERVIEWS AS THOUGH THROWING A 'CHALLENGE.'

'GIVE THIS DECISION OF MINE IMPORTANCE AND SEE IT IS FRONT-PAGED IN THE AMERICAN PAPERS,' KARUNANIDHI PLEADED WITH THE TWO NEWSMEN.

KARUNANDHI EXPLAINED TO THE NEWSMEN OF NEW YORK TIMES AND BALTIMORE SUN THE REASONS FOR HIS DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE TAMIL NADU. HOWEVER HE ALSO EXPLAINED WHY IS NOT PRESSING THAT DEMAND AT PRESENT.

THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IS INQUIRING INTO THE INTERVIEWS GRANTED TO THE AMERICAN NEWSMEN.

THESE NEWYORK TIMES AND BALTIMORESUN CORRESPONDENTS WERE WORKING FIRST IN NEW DELHI.

THEY WERE EXPELLED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE SENDING SLANDEROUS AND FALSE DESPATCHES ABOUT INDIA. THEREAFTER THEY SHIFTED THEIR CAMP TO HONG KONG AND FROM THERE THEY CONTINUED TO SLANDER INDIA.

ONE OF THESE TWO MEN STAYED IN KARACHI FOR SOME TIME AND FROM THERE HE FILED A DETAILED DESPATCH ABOUT THE 'FIERCE' FIGHT THAT RAGED BETWEEN THE 'DMK TASK FORCE' AND THE NEW DELHI MILITARY MEN NEAR GUMMIDIPOONDI.

THESE TWO NEWSMEN, THAT IS CIA AGENTS IN THE GARB OF NEWSMEN, ARRIVED IN MADRAS VIA SINGAPORE. IT IS SAID THAT THESE TWO MEN CAME TO MADRAS ON THEIR WAY TO COLOMBO TO COVER THE NON-ALIGNED MEET THERE.

THEY STAYED AT MADRAS FOR THREE DAYS.

THEY TELEPHONED FORMER CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI AND JOINTLY REQUESTED HIM TO GRANT AN INTERVIEW. IT IS SAID THAT THEY TELEPHONED THRICE.

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THIS REQUEST CREATED SOME 'MISGIVINGS' IN THE MIND OF KARUNANIDHI WHO IS ALWAYS ON HIS GUARD ABOUT THE POLICE-MEN IN OUTFI WHO MAY APPEAR IN ANY GUISE. HE WISHES TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE TWO MEN REQUESTING INTERVIEW WERE

(I) REALLY AMERICANS

(II) WERE REALLY NEWSPAPER MEN.

KARUNANIDHI TELEPHONED THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL AND INQUIRED WHETHER THESE TWO NEWSMEN WERE REALLY AMERICAN NEWSMEN.

THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL CONFIRMED THAT THESE TWO NEWSMEN WERE AMERICANS AND REALLY 'NEWSMEN.' KARUNANIDHI THEN MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE INTERVIEW.

THE TWO NEWSMEN TAPE RECORDED THE INTERVIEW GRANTED THEM BY KARUNANIDHI.

IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER KARUNANIDHI WAS AWARE OF IT.

KARUNANIDHI IN HIS INTERVIEW HAD SAID THAT:

' THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IS TORTURING HIM AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AND IS INDULGING IN UNDEMOCRATIC METHODS TO DO AWAY WITH HIS PARTY.

THAT THE DMK PARTY IS THE BIGGEST PARTY TAMIL NADU AND THAT CHARGES OF CORRUPTION WERE LEVELLED PURELY FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

ALTHOUGH RECENT HAPPENINGS STRENGTHEN THE DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE TAMIL NADU, HIS PARTY 'AT PRESENT' WILL DEMAND ONLY STATE AUTONOMY, KARUNANIDHI IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID. DETAILS OF THE INTERVIEW ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESENT.

THEN THE TWO NEWSMEN LEFT FOR COLOMBO.

BUT AT THE COLOMBO BANDARANAYAKE AIRPORT THEY WERE INTERROGATED BY THE SRI LANKA POLICE.

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THE POLICE FOUND OUT THAT THEIR NAMES WERE NOT IN THE LIST OF NEWSMEN PERMITTED TO COVER THE NON-ALIGNED MEET.

THEY WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO STAY AT SRI LANKA.

THE AUTHORITIES THEN SENT THEM BACK TO SINGAPORE BY THE NEXT PLANE.

IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER KARUNANIDHI'S IMPORTANT INTERVIEW HAS BEEN FRONT-PAGED IN AMERICAN PAPERS. UNQUOTE. MCCASKILL

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